

The S A C R E D
O R A T O R I O.

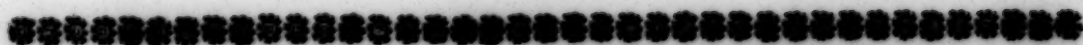
As performed at
The THEATRE in OXFORD.



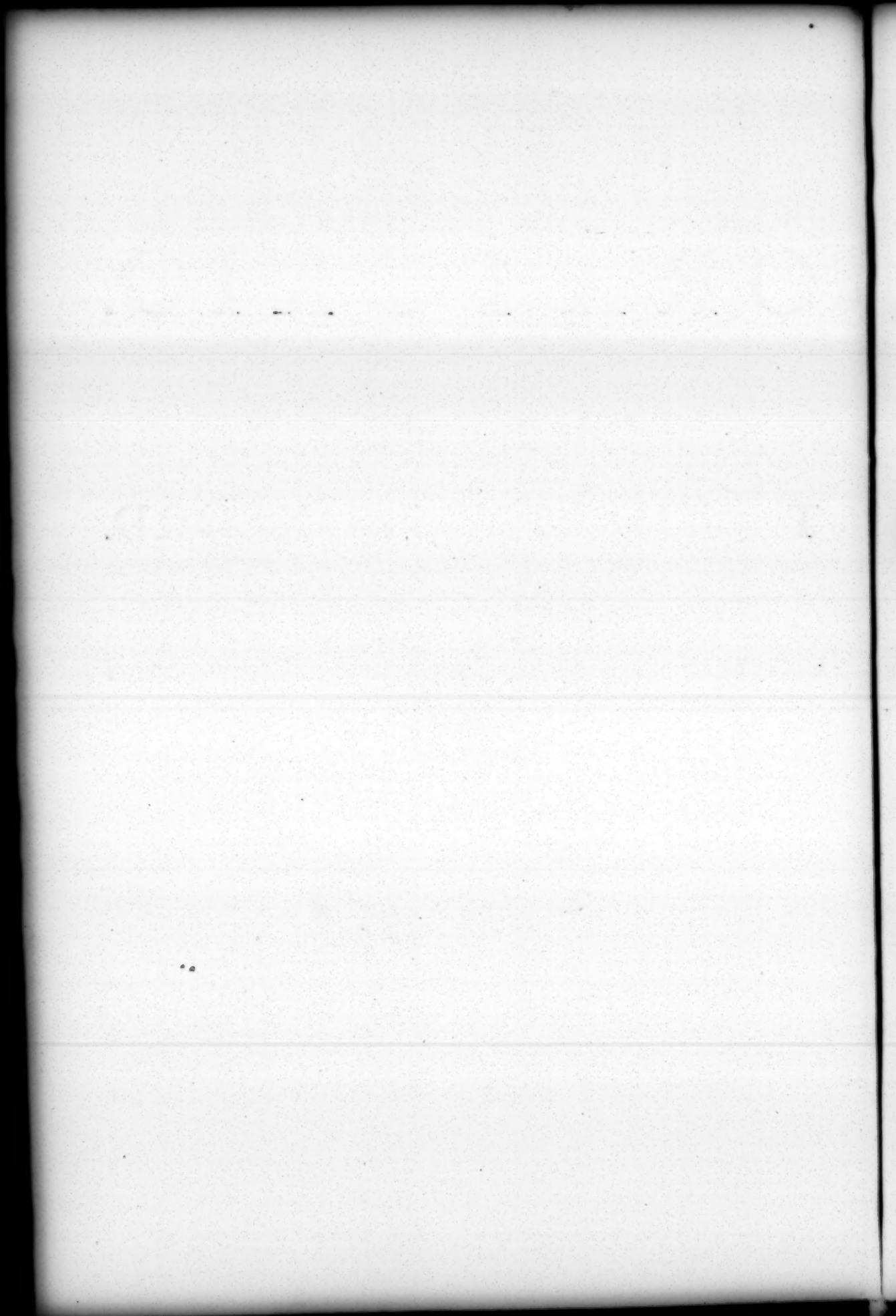
John



Prever



Printed in the YEAR MDCCXLIX.



THE Sacred Oratorio.

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PART I.

RECITATIVE *Accompanied.*

COMFORT ye, comfort ye, my People, saith your God : Speak ye comfortably to *Jerusalem*, and cry unto her, that her Warfare is accomplished, that her Iniquity is pardoned.

The Voice of him that cryeth in the Wilderness, Prepare ye the Way of the Lord, make straight in the Desert a High-Way for our God.

A I R.

Every Valley shall be exalted, and every Mountain and Hill made low ; the crooked straight, and the rough Places plain.

C H O R U S.

And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed ; and all Flesh shall see it together, for the Mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

RECIT. *Accompanied.*

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, yet once again a little while and I will shake the Heavens, the Earth, the Sea, and the dry Land, and I will shake all Nations, and the Desire of all Nations shall come.

Behold the Lord whom ye seek shall come suddenly to his Temple, even the Messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in, behold he shall come saith the Lord of Hosts.

A I R.

But who may abide the Day of his coming, and who shall stand when he appeareth ?

For he is like a Refiner's Fire.

C H O R U S.

And he shall purify the Sons of *Levi*, that they may offer unto the Lord an Offering in Righteousness.

R E C I T A T I V E.

Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his Name *Emanuel*, God with us.

Air and Chorus.

O thou that tellest good Tidings to *Zion*, get thee up into the high Mountain ; O thou that tellest good Tidings to *Jerusalem*, lift up thy Voice with Strength, lift it up, be not afraid, say unto the Cities of *Judah*, Behold your God.

Arise, shine, for thy Light is come, and the Glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

R E C I T. *Accompanied.*

For behold Darkness shall cover the Earth, and gross Darkness the People : and the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his Glory shall be seen upon thee.

And the *Gentiles* shall come to thy Light, and Kings to the Brightness of thy Rising.

A I R

(5)

A I R.

The People that walked in Darknefs have seen a great Light ; and they that dwell in the Land of the Shadow of Death, upon them hath the Light shined.

C H O R U S.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the Government shall be upon his Shoulder, and his Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

R E C I T A T I V E.

There were Shepherds abiding in the Field, keeping Watch over their Flock by Night.

A I R.

And lo ! the Angel of the Lord came upon them, and the Glory of the Lord shone round about them ; and they were fore afraid.

R E C I T A T I V E.

And the Angel said unto them fear not, for behold I bring you glad Tidings of great Joy which shall be to all People : for unto you is born this Day in the City of *David* a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

R E C I T. *Accompanied.*

And suddenly there was with the Angel a Multitude of the Heavenly Host praising God, and saying,

C H O R U S.

Glory to God in the highest, and Peace on Earth :
Good-will towards Men.

A I R

(6)

A I R.

Rejoice greatly O Daughter of Zion, shout O Daughter of Jerusalem, behold thy King cometh unto thee.

He is the righteous Saviour, and he shall speak Peace unto the Heathen.

R E C I T. *Accompanied.*

Then shall the Eyes of the Blind be opened, and the Ears of the Deaf unstopped; then shall the lame Man leap as a Hart, and the Tongue of the Dumb shall sing.

A I R.

He shall feed his Flock like a Shepherd, and he shall gather the Lambs with his Arm, and carry them in his Bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto him all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and he will give you rest.

Take his Yoke upon you and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of Heart, and ye shall find Rest unto your Souls.

C H O R U S.

His Yoke is easy, and his Burthen is light.

End of the First Part.

P A R T II.

C H O R U S.

BEhold the Lamb of God that taketh away the Sin of the World.

A I R.

He was despised and rejected of Men, a Man of Sorrows and acquainted with Grief.

He gave his Back to the Smiters, and his Cheeks to them that plucked off the Hair; he hid not his Face from Shame and Spitting.

C H O R U S.

Surely he hath born our Grievs, and carried our Sorrows. He was wounded for our Transgressions, he was bruised for our Iniquities, the Chastisement of our Peace was upon him, and with his Stripes we are healed.

C H O R U S.

All we like Sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own Way, and the Lord hath laid on him the Iniquity of us all;

RÉCIT.

R E C I T. *Accompanied.*

All they that see him laugh him to scorn, they shoot out their Lips, and shake their Heads, saying,

C H O R U S.

He trusted in God that he would deliver him, let him deliver him, if he delight in him.

R E C I T. *Accompanied.*

Thy Rebuke hath broken his Heart, he is full of Heaviness, he looked for some to have Pity on him, but there was no Man, neither found he any to comfort him.

A I R.

Behold and see if there be any Sorrow like unto his Sorrow.

R E C I T. *Accompanied.*

He was cut off out of the Land of the Living, for the Transgression of thy People was he stricken.

A I R.

But thou didst not leave his Soul in Hell, neither didst thou suffer thy holy one to see Corruption.

C H O R U S.

Lift up your Heads O ye Gates, and be ye lifted up ye everlasting Doors, and the King of Glory shall come in.

Who

(9)

Who is the King of Glory ?

The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in Battle.

Lift up your Heads O ye Gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting Doors, and the King of Glory shall come in.

Who is the King of Glory ?

The Lord of Hosts : He is the King of Glory.

R E C I T A T I V E.

Unto which of the Angels said he at any Time, Thou art my Son, this Day have I begotten thee ?

C H O R U S.

Let all the Angels of God worship him.

A I R.

Thou art gone up on high, thou hast led Captivity captive, and received Gifts for Men, yea for thine Enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

C H O R U S.

The Lord gave the Word ; great was the Company of the Preachers.

D U E T T O *and* C H O R U S.

How beautiful are the Feet of him that bringeth glad Tidings, Tidings of Salvation ! That faith unto *Zion* thy God reigneth ! Break forth into Joy, thy God reigneth.

B

AIR.

(10)

A I R.

Their Sound is gone out into all Lands, and their Words unto the Ends of the World.

A I R.

Why do the Nations so furiously rage together, and why do the People imagine a vain Thing?

The Kings of the Earth stand up, and the Rulers take Council together against the Lord and against his anointed.

C H O R U S.

Let us break their Bonds afunder, and cast away their Cords from us.

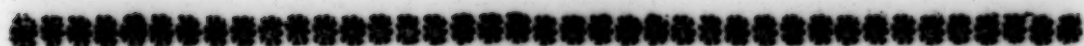
R E C I T A T I V E.

He that dwelleth in Heaven shall laugh them to scorn : The Lord shall have them in Derision. Thou shalt bruise them with a Rod of Iron, Thou shalt dash them in Pieces like a Potter's Vessel.

C H O R U S.

Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth ! The Kingdom of this World is become the Kingdom of our Lord and of Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. *Hallelujah!*

End of the Second Part.



P A R T III.

A I R.

I Know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter Day upon Earth. And tho' Worms destroy this Body yet in my Flesh shall I see God.

For now Christ is risen from the dead, the first Fruits of them that slept.

C H O R U S.

Since by Man came Death, by Man came also the Resurrection from the Dead.

For as in *Adam* all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

R E C I T A T I V E.

Behold I tell you a Mystery : We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, in a Moment, in the Twinkling of an Eye, at the last Trump.

A I R.

The Trumpet shall sound, and the Dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be chang'd.

For this Corruptible must put on Incorruption, and this Mortal must put on Immortality.

RECIT.

(12)

R E C I T A T I V E.

Then shall be brought to pass the Saying that is written, Death is swallow'd up in Victory.

D U E T T O.

O Death where is thy Sting, O Grave where is thy Victory?

The Sting of Death is Sin, and the Strength of Sin is the Law.

C H O R U S.

But Thanks be to God who giveth us the Victory thro' our Lord Jesus Christ.

A I R.

If God be for us, who can be against us?

Who shall lay any thing to the Charge of God's Elect?

It is God that justifieth, who is he that condemneth?

It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again, who sits at the Right Hand of God, who makes Intercession for us.

C H O R U S.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeem'd us to God by his Blood, to receive Riches, and Wisdom, and Power, and Glory, and Blessing.

Blessing and Honour, Glory and Power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb for ever. *Amen.*

The E N D.



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